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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 683

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to name a bridge on State Route 109 at Spencer Creek in Wilson County the "Sgt. John Thomas Burton and Sp4 James Edward Bush Memorial Bridge".

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should name certain highways and bridges to honor those brave members of the United States armed forces who have given their lives in service of their country; and

WHEREAS, two such courageous young Tennesseans were John Thomas Burton, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Burton of Mt. Juliet, Tennessee and James Edward Bush, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Farmer Bush of Lebanon, Tennessee, both of whom lost their lives in combat in the Republic of Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, John Thomas Burton joined the United States Marine Corps in 1964 and served in the Dominican Republic prior to serving a thirteen-month tour in Vietnam; he married his wife, Suzanne Taylor Burton, on November 19, 1967, and shipped out for his second tour of duty in Vietnam on February 18, 1968; and

WHEREAS, while assigned to L Company, 3rd Battalion, 27th Marines, 1st Marine Division, on May 18, 1968, during Operation Allen Brooke at Go Noi Island south of Da Nang,

Sgt. Burton assumed the point position of a force sent to relieve a platoon pinned down by intense fire; he lost his life while providing covering fire for the withdrawal of his squad with their casualties; and

WHEREAS, for his heroic actions, courage and initiative, and selfless devotion to duty, he was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the Vietnam Service Medal, among other military honors; and

WHEREAS, James Edward Bush graduated from Lebanon High School in 1964 and enlisted in the United States Army on June 22 of that year; he left for service in Vietnam on July 7, 1965; and

WHEREAS, as a Specialist 4th Class in B Company, 1/327th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, James Bush lost his life on a combat mission, becoming Wilson County's second casualty of the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, for his heroic actions, courage and initiative, and selfless devotion to duty, Sp4 Bush was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, and the Vietnam Service Medal, among other military honors; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to honor these fallen heroes by naming the bridge on State Route 109 at Spencer Creek in Wilson County the "Sgt. John Thomas Burton and Sp4 James Edward Bush Memorial Bridge"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the bridge at Spencer Creek on State Route 109 in Wilson County is hereby designated as the "Sgt. John Thomas Burton and Sp4 James Edward Bush Memorial Bridge" to commemorate the heroic actions of the late Sgt. John Thomas Burton and Sp4 James Edward Bush and the ultimate sacrifice they made in service of this country and fellow citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or affix suitable markers designating such bridge as the "Sgt. John Thomas Burton and Sp4 James Edward Bush Memorial Bridge".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the erection of such directional signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution shall become operative only if Wilson County, Tennessee, either remits the estimated cost of the erection of such signs to the department of transportation within one (1) year of the effective date of this act or manufactures such signs in accordance with the provisions of the following resolving clause. Wilson County shall make such payments prior to any expenditure by the state for manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to Wilson County within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, Wilson County shall remit an amount equal to the difference in such costs to the department within thirty (30) days of receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Wilson County may manufacture and erect such signs provided that such signs are manufactured and erected pursuant to state and federal guidelines and approved by the department.